

# The Pan-Pacific Entomologist

Vol. IV, No. 1

July, 1927

## SYNONYMIC NOTES (LEPID., PHALÆNIDÆ)

BY WILLIAM BARNES AND F. H. BENJAMIN

*Decatur, Illinois*

Through the kindness of Mr. W. H. T. Tams we have received a copy of "Notes on the Synonymy of Some Noctuidæ" published 1926, *Encyclopedie Entomologique*, Lepidoptera, I, Fasc. 4, pp. 183-185. In this paper Mr. Tams has published notes of great value on the types of some heretofore unplaced or misapplied names. As this paper seems unavailable to most American workers, we think best to call attention to the new synonymy in relation to North American species.

### "AGROTIS" ANTEPOSITA Gn.

1852, Guenée, *Spec. Gén.*, V, Noct., I, 278, *Agrotis*.

Mr. Tams remarks that the Paris Museum type is a fragment of the thorax bearing two wings on one side. He states it is certainly not *Feltia annexa* Treit., and thinks it may be "*Lycophotia*" *messium* Gn.

As the species was described from two specimens, one of which was in the Boisduval collection, the second type may possibly be in existence and may be in condition to allow positive determination.

### HADENA<sup>1</sup> LUTRA Gn.

1852, Guenée, *Spec. Gén.*, VI, Noct., II, 94, *Hadena*.

1906, Hampson, *Cat. Lep. Phal. B. M.*, VI, 333, *sepultrix*, *Eumichtis*.

<sup>1</sup> *Hadena* Schr., type *Phalæna cucubali* D. and S. Much has been written regarding *Hadena* and its type. Duponchel, 1829, *Lep. Fr.*, VII, (2), 71, cited *genistæ*, but this is not an included name. Curtis, 1830, *Brit. Ent.*, I, 308, cited *capsinicola* also a non-included name. Boisduval, 1836, *Sp. Gen.*, I, 135, cited *dentina* and on page 144 cited *satura*, both non-included names. Westwood, 1840, *Gen. Syn.*, page 95, cited *plebeia*, a non-included name. Guenée, 1852, *Sp. Gen.*, VI, 81, cited *w-latinum* presumably for synonym *genistæ* following Duponchel, but neither name included in Schrank's generic description. Grote, 1874, *Bull. Buff. Soc.*, II, 14, did not designate a type, but in 1895, *Ent. Rec.*, VI, pages 78 and 284, cited *cucubali*, which he also cited in several subsequent papers. Hampson, 1894, *Fauna Brit. Ind.*, Moths, II, 198, designated type *cucubali*, the first designation of an included name which we have been able to find. Hampson, 1903, *Cat. Lep. Phal.*, IV, 4, cites type *reticulata* presumably for synonym *typica* Auct. and Hbn. nec L., and repeats the citation 1905, l. c., V, 208. Warren, in Seitz, III, 79, follows Hampson.

Fortunately the prior designation of *cucubali* eliminates the nomenclatorial question if *typica* Auct., a probable misdetermination,

1926, Tams, Encyc. Ent., Lepid., I, (4), 184, (= *glaucopis*), *Polia*.

‡ *brassicæ* Auct. nec L.

1873, Grote, Bull. Buff. Soc. Nat. Sci., I, 104, *Mamestra*.

*lubens* Grt.

1875, Grote, Trans. Am. Ent. Soc., V, 113, *Mamestra*.

*rufula* Morr.

1875, Morrison, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., p. 62, *Mamestra*.

*race* *glaucopis* Hamp.

1905, Hampson, Cat. Lep. Phal. B. M., V, 106, pl. LXXXI, 6, *Polia*.

We know of no good character to sort *glaucopis*, which is only western *lubens*, from typical *lubens*. Western specimens are often darker in color than some eastern specimens, but the character does not hold for any series.

Mr. Tams reports *lutra* as being from North America instead of from New Holland. In view of the early date of the Guenée name, the comparative rarity of *glaucopis* in collections, the fact that we cannot tell *glaucopis* from *lubens* with any certainty save from locality labels, coupled with the fact that two other supposedly New Holland species described by Guenée from Paris Museum material turn out to be from eastern North America, leads us to think that *lutra* is, in all probability, based on an example of eastern *lubens* rather than *lubens* *glaucopis*.

#### MYTHIMNA<sup>2</sup> MARYX Gn.

1852, Guenée, Spec. Gén., V, Noct., I, 344, *Ceramica*.

1905, Hampson, Cat. Lep. Phal. B. M., V, 610, unrecog., *Ceramica*.

could possibly become a genotype, to say nothing of this resting solely on the strength of the citation of *reticulata* which is a non-included name.

McDunnough, 1916, Ent. News, XXVII, 395, follows Grote, but does not use the name for North American species for taxonomic reasons.

In all probability *lutra* (*lubens*) is not strictly congeneric with *cucubali*, but quite a number of the species assigned to "Polia" by Hampson and McDunnough do seem to belong, so that we simply substitute *Hadena* for "Polia," following Hampson's taxonomy, until some logical division of "Polia" is proposed. In reality *Polia* is a *Tentamen* genus of *Cucullinæ*, instead of belonging in the *Hadeninæ*.

<sup>2</sup> *Mythimna* Ochs., type *Phalæna albipuncta* D. and S. We cannot agree with Dr. McDunnough's citation of *oxalina* as type based on a "restriction" method of fixation (1916, Ent. News, XXVII, 395). By this method the type would appear to be *acetosellæ* D. and S., that name as well as *oxalina* being listed by Hubner (Verz.), and designated by Grote, 1874, Bull. Buff. Soc., II, 24. We have found no designation of *oxalina* prior to 1903, Hampson, Cat. Lep. Phal., IV, 602. Hampson cited *oxalina* following his "first species" rule, and in this is followed by Warren, in Seitz, III, 61. Westwood, 1840, Gen. Syn., page 94, cited *turca*, but this was *ultra vires* in view of the fact that Duponchel, Lep. Fr., VII, (2), 71, had designated type *albipuncta*. Guenée, 1852, Spec. Gén., V, Noct., I, cited *imbecilla* = *disparilis*. Barnes and Benjamin, 1926, Ent. News, XXXVII, 79, cited type *albipuncta* following Duponchel.

1926, Tams, Encyc. Ent., Lep., I, (4), 184, (= *rubefacta*), *Sideridis rubefacta* Morr.

1874, Morrison, Can. Ent., VI, 249, *Ceramica*.

‡ *vindemialis* Grt. (nec Gn.).

1875, Grote, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., 418, *Mamestra*.

1880, Grote, Can. Ent., XII, 185, (partim.), *Mamestra*.

1881, Grote, Can. Ent., XIII, 124, (partim.), *Mamestra*.

1905, Hampson, Cat. Lep. Phal. B. M., V, 442, *rubefacta*, *Sideridis*.

Grote, 1875, described *vindemialis* n. sp., 1880 and 1881. Grote credits authorship to Guenée. We cannot state if the 1875 n. sp. is an accident, or if Grote had previously determined a Thaxter specimen as the Guenée species and later forgetting the existence of the Guenée names published as "n. sp." There are two species much alike in superficial appearance but differing structurally.<sup>3</sup>

#### PLATYPOLIA<sup>4</sup> ANCEPS Steph.

1850, Stephens, Cat. Lep. B. M., p. 285, *Miselia*.

1918, Barnes and McDunnough, Contrib., IV, (2), 101, *Eurotype*.

‡ *polymita* Auct. nec L.

1829, Stephens, Ill. Brit. Ent., Haust., III, 31, pl. XXVI, 2, *Polia acutissima* Grt.

1875, Grote, Check List Noct. Am., p. 23, pl. I, 9, *Pachypolia form aplectoides* Gn.

1852, Guenée, Spec. Gen., VI, Noct., II, 83, *Hadena*.

1926, Tams, Encyc. Ent., Lepid., I, (4), 185, (= *medialis*), *Eurotype confragosa* Morr.

1874, Morrison, Proc. Bost. Soc. Nat. Hist., XVII, 138, *Polia medialis* Grt.

1876, Grote, Ann. Lyc. Nat. Hist. N. Y., XI, 306, *Polia*.

The specific synonymy has been explained by Barnes and McDunnough, 1918, save for the name *aplectoides*. Mr. Tams states this latter name, based on another "New Holland" type in the Paris Museum, is the same as *medialis* Grt.

<sup>3</sup> We possess a specimen from Florida which agrees well with Hampson's figure of *vindemialis* Gn. (1905, Cat. Lep. Phal. B. M., V, 445, pl. XCI, f. 2 type). The name has been omitted from the Barnes and McDunnough check list because Hampson stated that the locality, Florida, given by Guenée, was presumably an error and that the species probably came from New Zealand. We tentatively place *vindemialis* Gn. in *Barathra* Hbn., type *albicolon* Sepp cited by Grote, 1895, Abh. Nat. Ver. Bremen, XIV, 71. According to Hampson's taxonomy *Barathra* will replace *Trichoclea*. We have had no opportunity to study the European *albicolon* in relation to North American species.

<sup>4</sup> See Barnes and Benjamin, 1926, Pan.-Pac. Ent., III, 71, for generic synonymy.

## NEW PHALÆNIDÆ (LEPID.)

BY WILLIAM BARNES AND F. H. BENJAMIN

*Decatur, Illinois***Mesembragrotis** Barnes and Benjamin, gen. nov.Type *Mesembragrotis ruckesi* sp. nov.

Proboscis fully developed; palpi upturned, extending about equally with the frontal armature, the second joint scaled and not conspicuously fringed with hair, the third, moderate, porrect; frons with a truncate conical prominence with a flat vertical corneous process at middle like a beak; eyes rounded, naked, unciliated; antennæ of male scarcely serrate, fasciculate, laterally doubly fasciculate from each joint; antennæ of female simple, ciliated; head and thorax clothed with broad serrate scales, with very little hair; prothorax with a slight spreading crest; mesothorax with double tufts; metathorax with a large scale tuft; all tibiæ strongly spined, the fore tibiæ also armed distally with two heavy claws on each side. Fore wing with veins 3 and 5 from close to the angle of the cell, 6 from somewhat below upper angle; 9 from 10, anastomosing with 8 to form the areole; 11 from cell. Hind wing with veins 3, 4 from angle of cell; 5 obsolescent from somewhat below middle of discocellulars; 6, 7 stalked or connate, variable individually.

Presumably allied to *Mesembreuxoa* Hamps. but differing on palpi, antennæ, vestiture, and probably also on tibial armature.

**Mesembragrotis ruckesi** Barnes and Benjamin, sp. nov.

Head and thorax mixed black, rufous and ochreous; collar with more or less of a transverse black stripe. Fore wing with ground color grayish ochreous, more or less heavily shaded and powdered by black and appearing quite dark; basal line indicated on costa; t. a. line blackish, wavy; claviform long, black outlined; orbicular irregularly ovate, variable in exact shape, black outlined; reniform irregular, whitish, black outlined, with more or less of a dusky crescent which may or may not have a paler center; t. p. line black, produced to points on the veins, bent outward on costa, more or less incurved in discal fold, and more strongly so in submedian fold; s. t. line dentate, outwardly defined by a pale shade; a terminal series of black points. Hind wing white tinged with fuscous especially on veins and toward the termen.

The species has much the appearance of a "*Euxoa*" of the *tessellata* group.

*Type locality*: near **Alpine, Texas** (O. C. Poling).

*Number and sexes of types*: Holotype ♂, 1-7 September, 1926; allotype ♀, 22-31 August, 1926; 6 ♂ 10 ♀ paratypes, 22-31 August and 1-7 September, 1926.